

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02896 191301Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /086 W

-----091760 191304Z /44

P 181535Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3512

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON LAINO CASE

REF: ASUNCIO 2834

1. NOGUES AND I HAD AGREED ON JULY 13 THAT I WOULD MAKE A FORMAL PRESENTATION OF MY INSTRUCTIONS AS CONTAINED REFTEL, JULY 17. I EMPHASIZED THREE POINTS: OUR CONCERN THAT PARAGUAY AND THE U.S. CONTINUE THEIR COOPERATION; THE ABSENCE OF THREATS OF ANY KIND IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES; AND OUR BELIEF THAT THE EARLY RELEASE OF LAINO WAS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY. NOGUES WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF TRYING TO EXPLAIN AWAY SOME OF THE INCONSISTENCIES IN LAINO'S ARREST BUT SOON GAVE IT UP AS A BAD JOB. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO HANDLE THE CASE QUICKLY. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT PROMISING ME THAT LAINO WOULD BE OUT TODAY OR TOMORROW BUT I COULD EXPECT UNCOMMONLY RAPID ACTION.

2. I TOLD NOGUES THAT I HAD BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED TO SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CHARGES INCLUDED ACCUSATIONS THAT LAINO HAD ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREMISTS AND HAD SPECIFICALLY NAMED JO MARIE GRIESGRABER OF WOLA. NOGUES EXPLAINED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THE JUDGE WOULD AFFIRM THE FINDING, ONLY THAT IT WAS PART OF THE CASE THE POLICE HAD AGAINST LAINO. I SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02896 191301Z

TRADITION IN PARAGUAY WAS FOR THE COURT TO UPHOLD POLICE CHARGES. IT WAS ALSO UNFORTUNATE, I ADDED, THAT POLICE CHARGES PRINTED IN THE DAILY PRESS MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY CONSIDERS MERE ASSOCIATION GROUNDS TO DECIDE GUILT.

3. WE TOOK ALMOST A HALF AN HOUR TO DISSECT THE ENTIRE CASE AND BY THE TIME WE FINISHED NOGUES HAD PRACTICALLY ASSURED

ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND A WAY TO RELEASE LAINO RAPIDLY.

4. I TOLD NOGUES ONCE THE LAINO CASE IS BEHIND US THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING A POSITIVE ACTION TO HELP REDUCE THE DAMAGE THE LAINO KIDNAPPING HAS DONE. NOGUES HEARTILY AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD BEGIN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK. WE BOTH KNEW WE WERE TAKLING ABOUT A VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, BUT NEITHER OF US SPELLED IT OUT.

5. COMMENT: NOGUES CERTAINLY BELIEVES THAT HE AND OTHER MODERATES NOW HAVE THE UPPER HAND AND WILL SOON HAVE LAINO RELEASED. SKEPTICISM IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY, HOWEVER, AS THOSE WHO CAUSED THIS INCIDENT MAY STILL HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE TO DELAY LAINO'S RELEASE AND PERHAPS EVEN HAVE THE COURT FIND HIM GUILTY.
WHITE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCIO2896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780296-0349
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780750/aaaabptr.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63e8f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ASUNCION 2834
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1980092
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON LAINO CASE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PA, US, (LAINO, DOMINGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63e8f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014